

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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O 161915Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3378

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO IMMEDIATE

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, SHUM, BR, AO

SUBJECT: SENATOR JAVITS VISITS BRASILIA

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RQF: STATE 010769

1. SUMMARY: DURING 24-HOUR VISIT TO BRASILIA JANUARY 7-8, SENATOR JACOB JAVITS HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH SEVERAL TOP BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT LEADERS, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA, MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY UEKI, CHIEF OF CIVIL HOUSEHOLD GENERAL GOLBERY DO COUTO E SILVA, AND MINISTER-CHIEF OF PLANNING SECRETARIAT REIS VELLOSO. JAVITS ALSO MET WITH PRESIDENT OF BANK OF BRAZIL ANGELO CALMON DE SA AND CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT PAULO LIRA, AND WAS RECEIVED AT BRAZILIAN CONGRESS BY SENATE PRESIDENT MAGALHAES PINTO AND SEVERAL OTHER CONGRESSMEN OF BOTH PARTIES. PRINCIPAL TOPICS RAISED BY SENATOR WITH SENIOR BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS WERE ANGOLA, UN CONDEMNATION OF ZIONISM, HUMAN RIGHTS, ENERGY PROBLEMS, BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS, AND BRAZIL'S ROLE IN WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER. (MORE DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF SOME OF THESE

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DISCUSSIONS WILL BE PROVIDED IN SEPARATE MESSAGES.) IN

CONTACTS WITH PRESS, JAVITS STRESSED BRAZIL'S IMPORTANT POSITION IN WORLD ECONOMY, WHICH MAKES MORE IMPERATIVE CLOSER US-BRAZILIAN TIES IN ECONOMIC FIELD. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT BRAZIL'S VOTE ON ZIONISM HAD NOT BEEN WELL RECEIVED, HE FORESAW NO ECONOMIC REPRISALS. SENATOR MADE EXCELLENT IMPRESSION PUBLICLY AND IN PRIVATE CONTACTS. VISIT WAS NET GAIN FOR OUR INTERESTS HERE. IT PROVIDED CONVINCING DEMONSTRATION OF STRONG INTEREST IN US CONGRESS AND PUBLIC AT LARGE ON BRAZIL'S PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS, AND ALLOWED BRAZILIAN LEADERS TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH US VIEW ON MATTERS OF PRIORITY INTEREST TO US. END SUMMARY.

2. ANGOLA:

IN TALKS WITH SILVEIRA ON ANGOLA DURING HIS 24-HOUR VISIT TO BRASILIA, JAVITS EXPLAINED SENATE'S RECENT VOTE PROHIBITING US COVERT ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA FACTIONS. SILVEIRA IN A LENGTHY RESPONSE REVIEWED BACKGROUND OF BRAZILIAN DECISION TO RECOGNIZE MPLA AND, WHILE SHARING CONCERN OVER SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT ULTIMATE SOLUTION WOULD BE REACHED BY ANGOLANS THEMSELVES AND NOT IMPOSED BY OUTSIDERS.

3. ZIONISM: WITH SILVEIRA AND LATER WITH GOLBERY, JAVITS REFERRED TO THE PROBLEM CREATED IN US-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS BY BRAZILIAN SUPPORT OF UN VOTE TO CONDEMN ZIONISM, WHICH HAD HAD NEGATIVE EFFECT ON US CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC OPINION. IN A VERY GENERAL REPLY, SILVEIRA STATED THAT VOTE WAS NOT ANTI-SEMITIC AND THAT BRAZILIAN JEWS WOULD CONTINUE TO ENJOY SAME TOLERANCE AND ACCEPTANCE IN BRAZILIAN SOCIETY THEY HAVE TRADITIONALLY KNOWN. GOLBERY DISCUSSED DIFFICULTY OF DECISION ON ZIONISM VOTE FOR GOB, STATING THAT SHORT TIME BETWEEN INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION IN UN AND FIRST VOTE DID NOT ALLOW FULL AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OR ANALYSIS OF THE CONSEQUENCES. BOTH SILVEIRA AND GOLBERY COMMENTED THAT THE US NOTE ON THE ISSUE AND THE PUBLIC REFERENCES TO ITS CONTENT BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAD COMPLICATED BRAZILIAN POSITION.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS: JAVITS TOLD SILVEIRA HE SAW HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BRAZIL AS AN OBSTACLE FOR CLOSER US-BRAZILIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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RELATIONS. REFERRING BRIEFLY TO PRESIDENT GEISEL'S EFFORTS TO CURB ABUSES, SILVEIRA WARNED AGAINST SINGLING OUT SOME COUNTRIES AS SCAPEGOATS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND CONSIDERED IT SELF-DEFEATING TO POLITICIZE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. MUCH MORE FRANK, GOLBERY ACKNOWLEDGED TO THE SENATOR THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASE IN HUMAN RIGHTS CASES IN THE LATTER PART OF 1975 AFTER A PERIOD OF STEADY DECLINE. GOLBERY STATED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO GET CONTROL OF

ACTIONS OF "SOME ELEMENTS," AND ALLUDED TO THE SEE-SAW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXTREME RIGHT AND EXTREME LEFT. GOLBERY WAS OPTIMISTIC, HOWEVER, THAT SITUATION WOULD IMPROVE. IN BRIEF PUBLIC REMARKS AT CONGRESS, JAVITS COMMENTED THAT BRAZIL'S STRONG PARLIAMENTARY TRADITION WILL ULTIMATELY PROVE TO BE THE BEST SAFEGUARD OF INDIVIDUAL GUARANTEES.

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5. BRAZILIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SILVEIRA, UEKI, AND GOLBERY, JAVITS TOOK POSITION THAT BRAZIL'S ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPECTS SHOULD LEAD IT TO CONSIDER ITSELF A MEMBER OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD. THE FOREIGN MINISTER, HOWEVER, ARGUED THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING ITS GROWTH, BRAZIL DOES NOT YET QUALIFY AS DEVELOPED PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE, LIKE MOST LDC'S, IT HAS NOT ACHIEVED AUTONOMY IN DEALING WITH VITAL ECONOMIC DECISIONS. IMPORTANT MATTERS SUCH AS PRICES AND MARKETS FOR EXPORTS, HE ASSERTED, ARE STILL DETERMINED OUTSIDE OF BRAZIL, AND HE CITED SOYBEANS AS AN EXAMPLE. EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY, UEKI SAID THAT IN PRACTICAL TERMS IT

WAS MUCH MORE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR BRAZIL TO JOIN THE FIRST WORLD THAN TO PURSUE A THIRD WORLD COURSE. UEKI SAW MERIT IN JAVITS' SUGGESTION OF BRAZILIAN MEMBERSHIP IN OECD AND, PARTICULARLY, IEA, SINCE BRAZIL IS DECLAREDLY A MARKET ECONOMY WITH MANY PROBLEMS AND EXPERIENCE COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF DEVELOPED WESTERN COUNTRIES. UEKI NOTED THAT PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND POLITICALLY BRAZILIANS ALREADY THINK

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OF THEMSELVES NOT AS BELONGING TO THE THIRD WORLD BUT WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. ALWAYS EMPHASIZING THE PERSONAL NATURE OF HIS REMARKS, HE URGED US TO FOLLOW UP ON IDEA OF IEA MEMBERSHIP TO BRAZIL.

6. ENERGY: IN DISCUSSING ENERGY ISSUES WITH UEKI, JAVITS REITERATED US CONCERN OVER DANGER THAT FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WILL PERMIT FURTHER SPREAD OF MILITARILY APPLICABLE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. UEKI REVIEWED POLITICAL REASONS FOR BRAZIL'S NON-ADHERENCE TO NPT, WITH HE CHARACTERIZED AS INHERENTLY DISCRIMINATORY, AND ITS DECISION TO SEEK FULL CYCLE TECHNOLOGY FROM FRG. STRESSING THAT BRAZIL'S REPEATED ASSURANCES THAT IS DIS NOT INTEND TO BUILD NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE GIVEN BRAZIL'S WEIGHT AND STATURE, EUKI ASSURED THE SENATOR THAT BRAZIL IS PREPARED TO AGREE TO NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT WITH IAEA, DESPITE THEIR POLITICAL UNPOPULARITY. ON OIL PROBLEMS, UEKI SAID RISK CONTRACTS DECISION, WHICH HE HAD FAVORED, HAD GAINED IN PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE. HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES WOULD NOT NOW NEGLECT THIS OPPORTUNITY IN BRAZIL AND ASKED THE SENATOR TO ENCOURAGE AMERICAN COMPANIES TO PARTICIPATE.

7. TRADE: JAVITS BRIEFLY TOUCHED ON US-BRAZILIAN TRADE IMBALANCE AND BRAZIL'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT IN CONVERSATIONS WITH REIS VELLOSO AND LIRA. THE SENATOR EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WASYS COULD BE FOUND TO REDRESS THE IMBALANCE AND OBSERVED THAT THERE SHOULD BE MORE REGULAR INSTITUTIONALIZED CONTACTS BETWEEN BUSINESSMEN OF TWO COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE NEW JOINT US-BRAZILIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL, TO SEEK WASYS OF NARROWING TRADE GAP. THE SENATOR ALSO REFERRED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO WORK ON THE PROBLEM, ALONG THE LINES OF THE GROUP THAT HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE IN REACHING A SOLUTION TO THE JAPANESE-US CONFLICT OVER TEXTILES. REIS VELLOSO SAW GOOD PROSPECTS FOR SUCH COOPERATION BECAUSE OF ABSENCE OF ANY ANTI-US FEELING IN BRAZIL AND GOOD CLIMATE EXISTING BETWEEN PRIVATE SECTORS OF TWO COUNTRIES. LIRA WAS INTERESTED IN THE POTENTIAL OF THE JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL IN STIMULATING US-BRAZILIAN

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TRADE. LIRA POINTED OUT THAT BRAZIL, AS A UTILIZER OF FOREIGN SAVINGS, EXPECTED AND WANTED A DEFICIT ON THE OVERALL TRADE BALANCE, PROVIDED IT WAS OF MANAGEABLE SIZE.

8. PUBLIC AFFAIRS: IN JAVITS CONTACTS WITH PRESS, WHICH HE HANDLED WITH GREAT SKILL WITHIN HIS GENERAL THEME OF BEING IN BRAZIL TO LISTEN, LEARN, AND UNDERSTAND, QUESTIONS MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED BY REPORTERS DEALT WITH POSSIBILITY OF SANCTIONS OR REPRISALS AGAINST BRAZIL FOR ZIONISM VOTE, SENATOR'S VIEWS OF INTERNAL BRAZILIAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, AND TRADE ISSUES. ASKED FREQUENTLY ABOUT REPORTS THAT US JEWISH GROUPS WERE CANCELING TOURIST BOOKINGS IN BRAZILIAN HOTELS, JAVITS BROUGHT OUT POINT THAT SUCH ACTIONS REPRESENTED INDIVIDUAL DECISIONS WHICH WERE BEYOND SCOPE OF GOVERNMENT BUT WHICH WERE A COLLECTIVE EXPRESSION OF STRONG FEELING. JAVITS DECLINED TO COMMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS OR INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT--SUCH AS GOVERNMENT'S CASSATION DURING HIS VISIT OF TWO OPPOSITION DEPUTIES. HE DID NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD COMMENT ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN HIS FINAL REPORT OF HIS TRIP TO BRAZIL. HE DISCOUNTED POSSIBILITY OF OFFICIAL SANCTIONS AGAINST BRAZIL AND OTHER COUNTRIES THAT VOTED AGAINST THE US IN UNGA, AND HE SAW LITTLE PROSPECT THAT PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL BANKERS IN US WOULD SOMEHOW BLACKLIST BRAZIL FOR ITS UN VOTE. HE DID, HOWEVER, CAUTION THAT POLITICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES OVER TIME CAN BECOME SO PROFOUND THAT THEY LEAD TO ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS, AS IN CASE OF US AND USSR ON ISSUE OF JEWISH IMMIGRATION.

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9. IN DISCUSSING ECONOMIC ISSUES WITH PRESS, JAVITS AGAIN MADE POINT THAT BRAZIL'S RAPID APPROACH TO THRESHOLD OF DEVELOPED STATUS HAS IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR BOTH US AND BRAZIL, MAKING IT MORE IMPORTANT THAT NEITHER TAKE THE OTHER FOR GRANTED. HE SAW MANY ECONOMIC ISSUES THAT NEEDED ATTENTION, INCLUDING COUNTERVAILING DUTIES, BUT LOOKED BEYOND IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS TO BROADER ECONOMIC ISSUES. HE SAW NEED FOR US TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH BRAZIL TO FIND MEANS TO MAKE UP IMPORTANT PART OF 1.5 BILLION DOLLAR TRADE IMBALANCE. HE CITED LEADERSHIP ROLE GIVEN BRAZIL BY VIRTUE OF ITS PRESTIGE AMONG BOTH LESS DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. OTHERS HAVE MUCH TO LEARN FROM BRAZIL, HE CONCLUDED, BECAUSE IT HAS SHOWN ABILITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT WHILE MAINTAINING FULL INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY.

10. COMMENT: OPEN, TACTFUL, ENTHUSIASTIC, WELL-INFORMED, AND PUNCTILIOUS IN MAKING CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT SPEAKING FOR THE USG BUT FOR HIMSELF AND STRONG CURRENTS OF SENATE AND PUBLIC OPINION, JAVITS MADE A VERY POSITIVE IMPRESSION ON HIS INTERLOCUTORS. HIS INTELLIGENCE, PRACTICAL POLITICAL SENSE, AND WIDE-RANGING INTERESTS CHARMED THE PRESS, WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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GAVE HIM EXTENSIVE AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE. HE WAS VERY WELL PREPARED FOR HIS ENCOUNTERS WITH SENIOR BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS, A FACT WHICH GAVE MEETING MORE SUBSTANCE AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING CONTENT THAN IS FREQUENTLY THE CASE AND WHICH CAUSED ALMOST ALL OF THOSE OFFICIALS TO RESPOND TO HIM WITH CONSIDERABLE CANDOR. (THE SENATOR SEEMED TO CONSIDER SILVEIRA THE LEAST FRANK--AND MOST VERBOSE--OF THE OFFICIALS HE MET. HE WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ALL THE OTHERS, ESPECIALLY UEKI, GOLBERY, AND REIS VELLOSO.) IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH SILVEIRA, GOLBERY AND UEKI HE CONVEYED AMERICAN PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL CONCERN OVER SENSITIVE ISSUES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION SKILLFULLY AND CONVINCINGLY. OUR INTERESTS HAVE CERTAINLY BENEFITED FROM HIS BRIEF PRESENCE HERE AND BRAZIL SHOULD HAVE

GAINED MORE UNDERSTANDING OF--IF NOT SYMPATHY WITH--THE
VIEWS OF AN IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF US SENATE ON IMPORTANT
ISSUES OF BILATERAL CONCERN. THE EMBASSY HAS HEARD NOTHING
BUT POSITIVE REACTIONS TO HIS VISIT FROM BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS
AND THE PRESS. END COMMENT.

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